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February 22, 2004

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FEB 25 2004

Ms. Lanna Mai
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 3600
Alexandria, VA
Fax: 1-703-305-7687

OFFICIAL

Dear Ms. Mai,

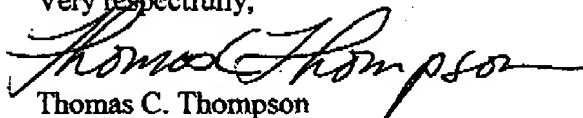
In accordance with our telephone conversation about my application number 09/690,657, I am sending this response. I received a Notice of Abandonment, mailed 12/15/03, which stated that the applicant failed to respond to the office letter mailed on 22 November 02. It also states that the proposed reply received on 22 July 2003 does not constitute a proper response.

The applicant was visiting family in the Philippines from 12/18/03 to 2/12/04 and was shocked to find the abandonment notice. After calling the PTO, the applicant was also astounded to find that a Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment had been sent to the applicant and not received, and that the examiner, Dennis Dorsey, had left the PTO.

The applicant had responded to the examiner's 11/22/02 and 6/18/03 office actions in a timely matter. If the applicant had received the non-compliant amendment, the applicant would have responded in a timely matter. The applicant never received this amendment until it was faxed to him last week.

Since the applicant is pro se, Examiner Dorsey had a very helpful and professional association with the applicant. The applicant is dismayed that he is gone. The applicant respectfully requests that the supervisory examiner help the applicant fight against this unfair Notice of Abandonment. The applicant is enclosing a copy of the amended claims in proper format.

Very respectfully,



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